

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application.

Claims 6 and 7 have been newly added. These claims are based on original claims 3 and

4. No new matter is entered.

Claims 1-5 have been amended to clarify applicant's claimed invention. The terms of "domain definition table", "inter domain connection definition table" and "inter domain connection judging module, clarify the corresponding relationship with the description in the specification.

These features are described in the specification, for example: page 9, lines 4-14, page 14, line 17 – page 16, line 6; page 17, line 19 – page 18, line 12; and FIGS. 3, 5 and 6, respectively.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being generally narrative and indefinite. The claims have been clarified, as pointed out above, therefore it is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gervais et al. (5,856,974) (Gervais). The Office Action refers to Fig. 3 of Gervais and indicates that Gervais teaches all the limitations of claims 1-5.

It is respectfully submitted applicant's claimed invention is different from Gervais for at least the following reasons:

Gervais describes in Fig. 3 a network configuration with the router (any one of 306, 308, 310, 312, 314) interposing between and connecting a backbone and a domain. Gervais describes connecting between only two domains, connecting either one of the local domains (302, 304)

with the global domain (BACKBONE 340).

Gervais describes the address translation in col. 7, lines 50-67 and Fig. 5. In the ADDRESS MAPING TABLE shown in Fig. 5 of Gervais, which is used for packet relay, the changing source of the address has a Network ID (504 in FIG. 5), but the destination address does not have a Network ID only MAPPED NODE ADDRESS 508. This mapped node address idea is also described in col. 7, line 61.

With Gervais, when packet relay is attempted between three or more domains, it is difficult to do so because one destination domain cannot be identified and specified by the plurality of domains. This means that the Gervais is not configured to control the packet relay between the plurality of domains.

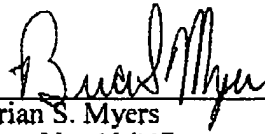
In contrast applicant's claimed invention includes a domain definition table and an inter domain connection definition table, wherein the connectability for relaying between the plurality of domains is controlled according to the definition of the inter domain connection definition table (the inter domain connection judging module for judging the packet relay between domains).

On the other hand, the configuration of Gervais does not show each of these elements corresponding to the domain definition table, the inter domain connection definition table and the inter domain connection judging module of the claimed invention.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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